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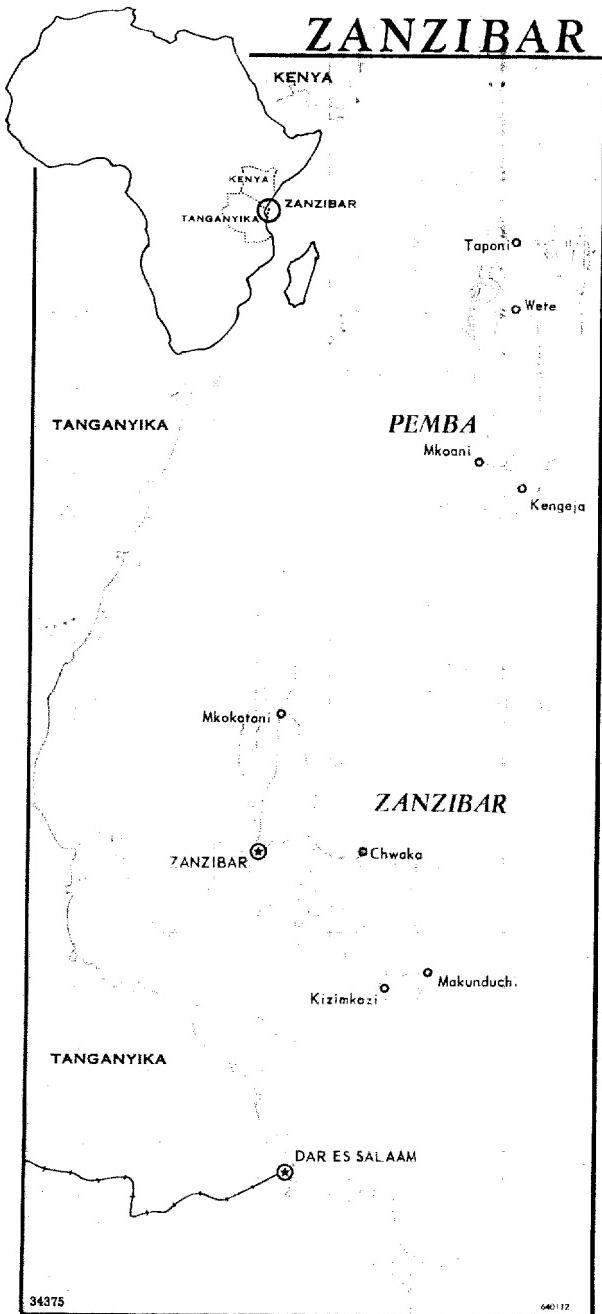
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*Zanzibar: Pro-Communists played a major role in overthrowing the Arab-dominated government of newly-independent Zanzibar and have obtained a strong position in the new African regime.

The new Minister of External Affairs and Defense and apparent leader of the well organized coup, Abdulrahman Mohammed--known as "Babu"--is outspokenly pro-Communist and has been primarily responsible for the extensive growth of Communist activity in Zanzibar. Some twenty Cuban-trained militants were reported active in the revolt, which may have been triggered by last week's governmental raid on the headquarters of Babu's Peiping-financed People's Party (UMMA).

The other members of the new government--including President Abeid Karume--are leaders of the former opposition Afro-Shirazi Party and should have the support of the island's African majority and of neighboring Tanganyika and Kenya. Dar-es-Salaam has actively aided the party in the past.

The new Prime Minister, Kassim Hanga, a Moscow-trained Marxist with a Russian wife, will have to cope with a shaky, Arab-controlled economy and increasing racial bitterness. He can be expected to press for an early closing of the US space tracking station on Zanzibar. Communist China--already recognized by the ousted regime--is sending four diplomats to open an embassy this week.

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Italy: Italy's membership in the multilateral nuclear force (MLF) has top priority on the list of topics that President Segni and Foreign Minister Saragat wish to talk about while they are in Washington.

Both men are strong supporters of the project; Saragat last week went so far as to say that it is essential to the future security and defense of the Atlantic community.

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however, the Italians are very reluctant to move quickly in making a formal commitment on the MLF. They feel that to do so would almost certainly bring down the newly established center-left government. Thus they intend to urge putting off the conclusion of an MLF treaty until early fall. By this time they hope the coalition will be more firmly in control and that Parliament will then support adherence with a substantial majority.

The US Embassy in Rome has also noted the delicacy of the Italian Government's position on the MLF issue. It, too, believes that any early commitment would have "highly undesirable results."

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Cambodia: Prince Sihanouk continues to push for a neutrality conference, but is trying to leave the impression that he is taking into account the feelings of those who oppose it.

In a 10 January speech, Sihanouk hinted that Cambodia would be willing to accept future US aid if it were offered without "conditions." He said that reconciliation depended only on the US withdrawing the words "barbaric" and "investigation" in connection with its recent complaint to Cambodia. Postponement of the deadline for withdrawing US MAAG and AID personnel apparently also was designed to appear as a conciliatory gesture.

Sihanouk offered to resume diplomatic relations with Thailand by signing a nonaggression pact and suggested that South Vietnam's claim to some Cambodian islands was all that stood in the way of establishing relations with that country.

Meanwhile Sihanouk has used a British note on a neutrality declaration to suggest that there is irresistible pressure for a neutrality conference which will force the US to go along.

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NOTES

India-Pakistan: The threat of more communal violence in India and Pakistan remains as the Calcutta police, reinforced with army units, continue to cope with local disturbances. The current outbreaks in India's West Bengal State followed anti-Hindu rioting in East Pakistan on 3 and 4 January. East Pakistani passions had been aroused by the theft of a religious relic in Indian-held Kashmir and by India's continuing eviction of thousands of Muslems unable to prove their Indian citizenship.

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India: Reports on Nehru's condition are somewhat contradictory, but there seems to be agreement that he should not return to a strenuous schedule in the near future. As an interim measure, two cabinet ministers, neither a strong political figure, are reportedly to take over Nehru's day-to-day duties but to refer major decisions back to him. In this arrangement Home Minister Nanda will handle domestic problems and Finance Minister Krishnamachari will be responsible for foreign affairs.

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Cyprus: [The London conference on Cyprus--preliminary talks for which begin today--may reach an impasse over the question of protection for the Turkish minority. The Turks are known to favor a drastic solution--such as partition or exchange of population. The Greeks want a settlement which would ensure revision of the constitution. This would in effect put an end to the guarantees involving the Turkish communities.]

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Afghanistan: [Kabul, presumably to reduce its heavy reliance on Moscow for its military training, has expressed new interest in getting help from the West. The King's son-in-law, chief of staff of the Kabul Central Army Corps, on 8 January asked Ambassador Steeves about obtaining commando-type training assistance from the US. Recently the Afghan Government also made informal inquiries of the West German Government for help in organizing a mountain division.]

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